

DC Connection

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Government Travel Card Component Program Manager (CPM) Reorganization

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On 17 August 2001, the Navy's Government Travel Card Component Program Manager (CPM) function for both individually and centrally billed accounts moved from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller), Office of Financial Operations and the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO N41), to the Department of the Navy (DON) eBusiness Operations Office (eBUSOPSOFF) located in Mechanicsburg, PA. The Navy CPM oversees the day-to-day operations for the Navy travel card program and is available to provide assistance to over 4,000 Navy Activity Program Coordinators (APCs). Each service similarly designates a CPM that is responsible for establishing and managing the DoD Travel Card Program or that service in accordance with DoD regulations.

The DON formed the eBUSOPSOFF to be an enabler for implementing electronic business solutions. The objective for this new office originated from a desire to consolidate operational oversight of the DON's various electronic-based transaction systems, such as the card programs (e.g., travel, purchase, fleet, and smart/common access cards), Power Track, and the ATMs-at-Sea program. Ultimately, the eBUSOPSOFF is expected to assume operational oversight for all of these programs, providing the needed senior leadership attention to maintain the effectiveness and efficiency of these programs. During FY 02, the smart/common access card and purchase card management functions are scheduled to be transferred to eBUSOPSOFF.

Another eBUSOPSOFF objective is to be an eBusiness innovation center, providing consultation services for emerging uses of commercial eBusiness solutions relevant to the Navy and Marine Corps. The office will serve as a mechanism to actively survey the rapidly emerging uses of newer technologies and evaluate their potential use within the DON.

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The day-to-day travel card operational program management responsibilities previously performed by FMO were assumed by the eBUSOPSOFF. FMO and CNO (N41) staff for centrally billed account management will retain authority for travel card policy formulation and dissemination. FMO has also retained responsibility for matters involving the timely payment of centrally billed account invoices.

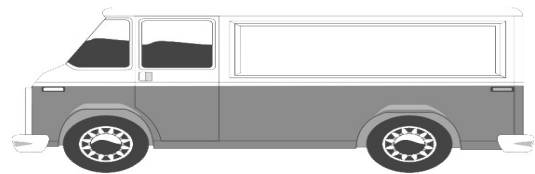
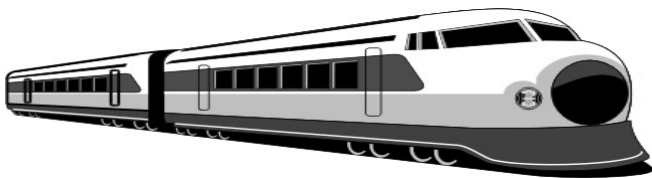
If you have questions or need more information, contact David McDermott, FMO, at telephone number (202) 685-6719 or LCDR Carolyn Pasternak, DON eBusiness Operations Office, at telephone number (717) 605-9384. For further information on the DON eBusiness Operations Office access Internet address: <http://www.don-ebusiness.navsup.navy.mil>. ♦

Mass Transportation and Vanpool Transportation Fringe Benefit Program

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Under Executive Order 13150, Federal agencies in the National Capital Region (NCR) were required to establish a transportation fringe benefit program by 1 October 2000. The program is intended to reduce Federal employees' contribution to traffic congestion and air pollution by encouraging the use of mass transportation for commuting to and from work. As the largest Federal employer in many metropolitan areas around the Nation, the Department of Defense (DoD) is fully participating in this effort and is offering this program to all DoD personnel, both inside and outside the NCR (ONCR). The program is applicable to all military and civilian personnel, including reservists and nonappropriated fund (NAF) employees. Government contractors are not eligible to participate.

Department of the Navy (DON) installations and activities inside the NCR implemented a "transit pass" transportation fringe benefit program for personnel using mass transportation or qualified vanpools on 1 October 2000.

Under this program activities must provide qualifying personnel with transit passes in amounts equal to personal commuting costs, not to exceed the maximum allowed by the Internal Revenue Code, which is currently \$65 per month. This amount will increase to \$100 per month in January 2002.

In July 2001, the DON extended this program to activities outside the NCR (ONCR) in a phased approach. Participants at ONCR locations will either be serviced by the Department of Transportation (DoT) and will use the transit passes provided to them by DoT. In those locations where DoT cannot purchase transit passes, and upon approval by ASN(FM&C) FMO, participants will obtain reimbursement by filing a *SF 1164, Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business*. Funding will be provided by the employing activity for civilians. Procedures for funding *SF 1164's* filed by military personnel are under development. As a general rule, employees (both NCR and ONCR) with subsidized parking must relinquish their parking permits to receive the transit pass. Similarly, employees who receive transit passes may not be counted as part of a DoD carpool for purposes of qualifying for a parking pass.

The Assistant Administration to the Under Secretary of the Navy (AAUSN) will coordinate payments to DoT for transit passes distributed to NCR activities. The Field Support Activity (FSA) will coordinate payments to DoT for transit passes distributed to ONCR activities, with the exception of NAF employees. NAF employee procedures are being implemented in an upcoming phase and should not be funded or subsidized by the Operations and Maintenance, Navy (O&M,N) appropriation. FSA will centrally fund payments from the (O&M,N) appropriation for transit passes distributed by DoT to ONCR

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Mass Transportation Benefit continued from page 2

activities for O&M,N funded employees. FSA will also coordinate the payment to DoT for all other Navy and Marine Corps appropriations and funds by providing a single line of accounting (LOA), and by preparing reimbursable customer billings for each appropriation involved. The LOAs will be identified by the DON Major Claimant, Marine Corps, and/or Activity Group (WCF) responsible for an appropriation.

The transit subsidy benefit will be funded using existing budgetary resources without supplemental funding. Because the program is considered to be a personnel benefit, it will be funded from the same appropriation/fund that finances an individual's salary. The costs of this program should be reported in *Object Class 12.1, Civilian Personnel Benefits* and in *Object Class 12.2, Military Personnel Benefits*.

An ASN(FM&C) financial process memo on this program is forthcoming. Detailed information on the program for ONCR is posted on the Lifelines website at Internet address: <http://www.lifelines2000.org/transit> as it becomes available, and it will soon be available at Internet address: <http://www.fmo.navy.mil>. Information regarding inside the NCR is posted at Internet address: <http://www.dtic.mil/ref/html/Organizations2.html>.

For additional background information about this program, contact your local Installation Point of Contact (IPOC) whose information can currently be found on the Lifelines Web site. For issues that your local IPOC cannot resolve, the IPOC should contact one of the following individuals:

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DON FY 2001 Problem Disbursement Reduction Efforts Applauded !

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Congratulations to the Department of Navy (DON) Major Commands for their outstanding efforts in reducing problem disbursements (PDs). The DON started Fiscal Year 2001 with \$1.7 billion (absolute) in PDs and ended the year with slightly under \$0.5 billion (absolute). This was an amazing **71% reduction!**

reduction goals. September 2001 PD numbers revealed that not only did most of the Major Commands reach their goals but, many exceeded their goals by an average of **50 percent**.

Fiscal Year 2002 goals will focus on eliminating all PDs dated prior to 10/01/00, reducing the level of inflow and enforcing Financial Management Regulation guidance to obligate PDs greater than 180 days. The FMO looks forward to working with the Major Commands and DFAS during another outstanding year of reducing PDs! ♦

The DON Major Commands, Office of Financial Operations (FMO), and Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) worked together throughout the year to establish and **exceed** PD

Transaction Posting

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Accounting reports reflecting low obligation, commitment, and expenditure rates are negatively impacting DON efforts to secure funding authority needed to finance requirements identified by Budget Submitting Office (BSOs). This is true for requirements associated with both the Emergency Response Fund and the Defense appropriation and apportionments provided under FY 2002 continuing resolution authority. Efficient posting of financial transactions facilitates the accurate reporting of timely execution, eliminating one of the obstacles in obtaining additional funds. Current information on budget execution may be viewed on the FMB web page, located at Internet address:

<http://www.navweb.secnav.navy.mil/exec/execution.htm>. ♦



NFMC Publications Are Available On The Internet !

The *DC Connection* newsletter and the *Navy Comptroller* bulletin will be distributed by mail and they will be available on the Internet. The online publications will be available starting with the December issue of the *DC Connection* newsletter and Issue No. I —FY 2002 of the *Navy Comptroller* bulletin.

Subscribers should be aware that only one copy of each publication will be mailed to the addresses on our mailing list. Additional copies of the publications can be downloaded from the NFMC Web site or viewed online. Our Internet address is: <http://www.nfmc.navy.mil>. Search the Web site for the "Publications-Related hyperlink."

If you have any problems or need more information, contact Ms. Agnes Crum by telephone at COMM: (850) 452-3962 or DSN: 922-3962 or by email: crum.agnes@nfmc.navy.mil. ♦



ATTENTION !

Seats Are Available In Most EDFMC Courses !

Department of Defense (DoD) Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMC)

This is the third year that the Department of Defense is offering the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course (EDFMC). The purpose of EDFMC is to improve the overall technical and managerial capabilities of the DoD financial management workforce. The 5-day course is designed to introduce students to a spectrum of financial management topics, including DoD (rather than service-specific) financial management policies and procedures. The course is taught in three modules: Government Resource Management Environment (Day 1); Budget and Cost Analysis (Days 2-3); and Accounting and Finance (Days 4-5). More detailed information concerning the course may be obtained from the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) and the NFMC Web sites.

The course is taught by instructors under contract. Attendees will be awarded 40 continuing professional education (CPE) credits for successfully completing the course. The cost of tuition for the FY 2002 course has been prepaid by the Department of Defense; however, installations are responsible for funding travel and lodging costs as necessary.

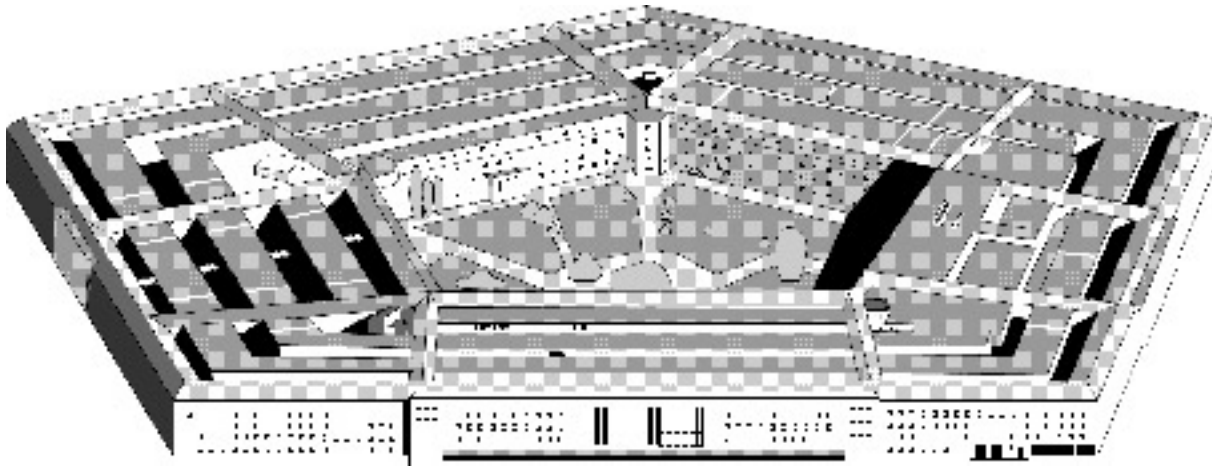
A by-product of the training is that it will assist financial managers in preparing for the Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) examination, if desired. Information about the CDFM course may be obtained from the ASMC Web site at Internet address: <http://www.asmconline.org>

EDFMC courses in Washington, DC and Albany, GA are full. All other course sites have seats available.

Refer to the NFMC Web site for DON course dates, locations, and allocations. The course nomination form can be downloaded from the NFMC Web site at Internet address:

<http://www.nfmc.navy.mil> ♦





*Please update your activity/command information using the enclosed
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Thank You!

The **DC Connection** is published by the Naval Financial Management Career Center (NFMCC) for the OASN (FM&C). This publication furnishes current information of interest to the DON financial management community. It is automatically distributed to addressees that subscribe to the **Navy Comptroller** bulletin. To subscribe or to change a subscription, use the Subscriber Form enclosed in this issue.

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Thanks.—The Editor

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